

Dear Harold,
Perhaps Ted Barker
off on Watergate because of
like concerns.
Sincerely,
[Signature]

THE EXPERTS BY FREIDEN AND BAILEY • MACMILLAN, 1968

The Intelligence Problem

85

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63. Conspirators
on the tragedy
of Justice Earl

Warren concluded that twenty-four-year-old Lee Harvey Oswald
was solely responsible, "new material" was supposedly uncovered
and hastily published. The commission had the assistance of a full-
time staff of twenty-six (mostly legal experts). It published an 888-
page report from twenty-six volumes covering 17,815 pages of
evidence and exhibits assembled over a ten-month period.

Despite the probity of Chief Justice Warren and six other dis-
tinguished public members assigned to the Commission, books
began to tumble off the presses beginning in 1966 contesting the
conclusions. In the United States, at first, there had been little
general reaction. Abroad, where plots and coups have for centuries
enriched political life, the general assessment was one of cynicism
and belief that the Warren Commission was covering up for the
Johnson Administration.

One of the august group assigned to the Commission, Allen
Dulles, had for years been involved in the craft of intelligence. He
was for a long time, director of the CIA. Foreign writers and self-
appointed analysts and investigators seized particularly on his role
with the commission to ridicule its objectivity.

Unrevealed until now, as well, was the outburst of the late
President's brother, Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Grief-stricken at
the sudden calamity that cut the President down, Bobby Kennedy
expressed a ranking official of the CIA, who, dumbfounded, heard
him demand with commingled anger and emotion: "Did your out-
burst have anything to do with this horror?" Bobby Kennedy, subse-
quently regaining his composure, never mentioned the call again.
He has often encountered the man he phoned, who, as it hap-
pened, had been a dedicated pro-Kennedy supporter.

Bobby Kennedy, in an initial seizure of grief-ridden suspicion,
thought of the CIA as a collective culprit, foreigners looked im-
mediately at a whole spectrum: It went from the far left to the
extreme right; the Dallas police, the FBI, and of course, the CIA
and its covert network of all types and mentalities. Abroad, espe-
cially in Europe, the great tragedy became a universal whodunit.
Interest has steadily risen in the possibilities of plots and counter-
plots that might have been directly involved in the murder of the
President. The spread of macabre interest and the inclination to
believe that all types of dark forces were involved has lately been
amplified by many books, inquiries, and opinions at home. Even an
"authorized version," written by William Manchester, has ap-